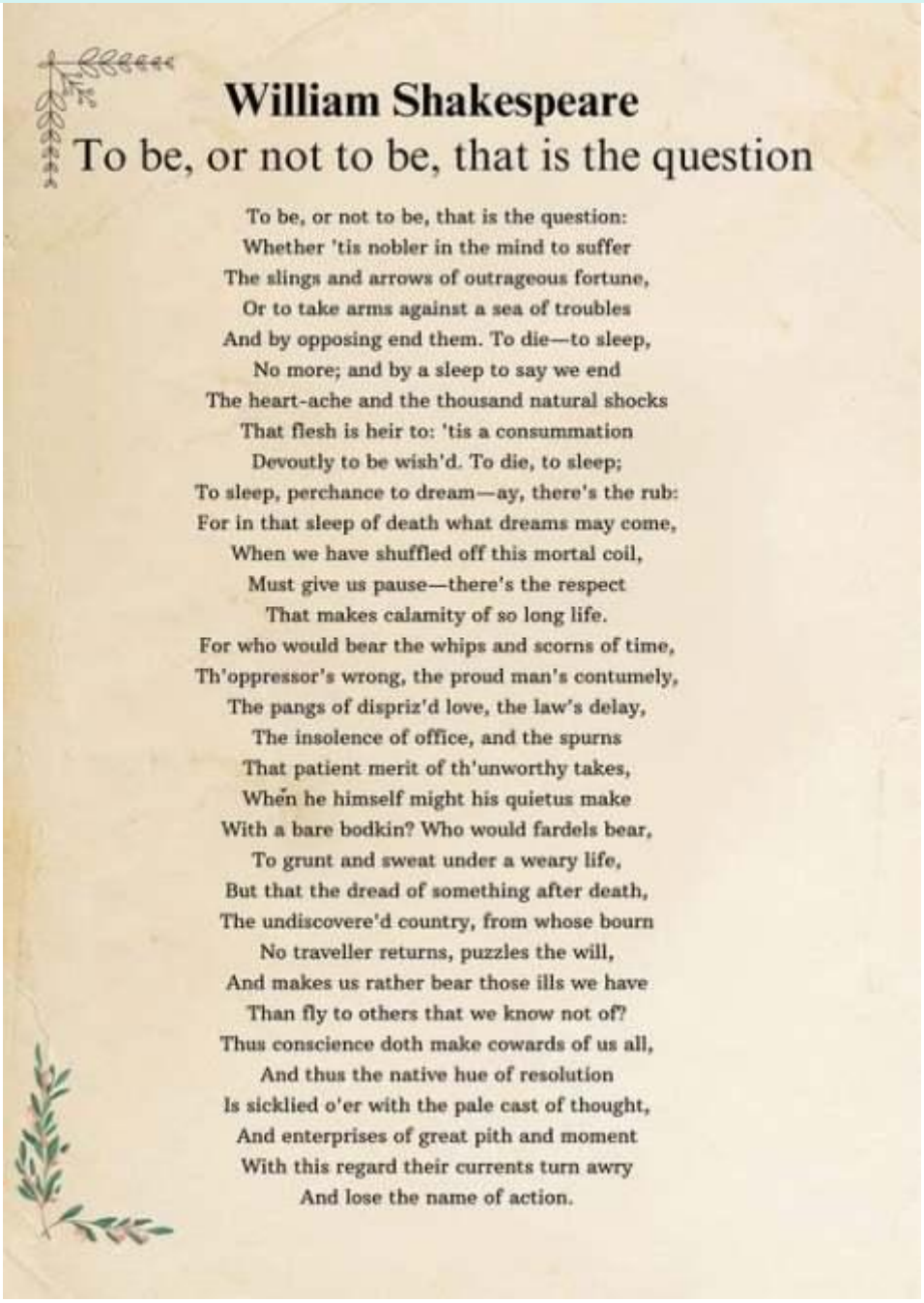
HAMLET ~ TO BE OR NOT TO BE ~ FAMOUS QUOTE

JUNE 2, 2026 BISMILLAH SCHOOL



William Shakespeare

To be, or not to be, that is the question

To be, or not to be, that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
And by opposing end them. To die—to sleep,
No more; and by a sleep to say we end
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;
To sleep, perchance to dream—ay, there's the rub:
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause—there's the respect
That makes calamity of so long life.
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,
Th'oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,
The pangs of dispriz'd love, the law's delay,
The insolence of office, and the spurns
That patient merit of th'unworthy takes,
When he himself might his quietus make
With a bare bodkin? Who would fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death,
The undiscovere'd country, from whose bourn
No traveller returns, puzzles the will,
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of?
Thus conscience doth make cowards of us all,
And thus the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
And enterprises of great pith and moment
With this regard their currents turn awry
And lose the name of action.

There are three main copies of *Hamlet*: the First Quarto, also known as the “Bad Quarto”, published in 1603; the Second Quarto, or “Good Quarto” of 1604; and the version included in the First Folio, published in 1623. These texts are commonly abbreviated Q1, Q2 and F1.

Three additional early texts are known, John Smethwick's Q3, Q4, and Q5 (1611–37); these are regarded as reprints of Q2 with some alterations.

This version preserves most of the First Folio text with updated spelling, punctuation, and five common emendations introduced from the Second ("Good") Quarto (italicised).[1]

TO BE OR NOT TO BE – HAMLET QUOTE

To be, or not to be, that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them: to die, to sleep
No more; and by a sleep, to say we end
The heart-ache, and the thousand natural shocks
That Flesh is heir to? 'Tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished.

To die, to sleep,
To sleep, perchance to Dream; aye, there's the rub,
For in that sleep of death, what dreams may come,
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause. There's the respect
That makes Calamity of so long life:
For who would bear the Whips and Scorns of time,
The Oppressor's wrong, the proud ***man's contumely,***
[F: poore***]***
The pangs of despised ***Love, the law's delay, [F:*** dispriz'd***]***
The insolence of office, and the spurns
That patient merit of th'unworthy takes,
When he himself might his Quietus make
With a bare Bodkin? Who would Fardels ***bear, [F:*** these Fardels***]***
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death,
The undiscovered country, from whose bourn
No traveller returns, puzzles the will,
And makes us rather bear those ills we have,
Than fly to others that we know not of?
Thus conscience does make cowards of us all,
And thus the native hue of Resolution
Is sicklied o'er, with the pale cast of Thought,
And enterprises of great pitch ***and moment, [F:*** pith***]***

With this regard their Currents turn awry***, [F:*** away***]***
And lose the name of Action. Soft you now,
The fair Ophelia? Nymph, in thy Orisons
Be all my sins remember'd.

Hamlet – William Shakespeare

Hamlet. (Act III scene 1)

"To Be Or Not To Be" The Soliloquy

Translation into Modern English: *– by William Bertrand*

The question is: is it better to be alive or dead?

Is it nobler to put up with all the nasty things that luck throws your way, or to fight against all those troubles by simply putting an end to them once and for all?

Dying, sleeping—that's all dying is—a sleep that ends all the heartache and shocks that life on earth gives us—that's an achievement to wish for.

To die, to sleep—to sleep, maybe to dream. Ah, but there's the catch: in death's sleep who knows what kind of dreams might come, after we've put the noise and commotion of life behind us.

That's certainly something to worry about. That's the consideration that makes us stretch out our sufferings so long.

After all, who would put up with all of life's humiliations—the abuse from superiors, the insults of arrogant men, the pangs of unrequited love, the inefficiency of the legal system, the rudeness of people in office, and the mistreatment good people have to take from bad—when you could simply take out your knife and call it quits?

Who would choose to grunt and sweat through an exhausting life, unless they were afraid of something dreadful after death, the undiscovered country from which no visitor returns, which we wonder about without getting any answers from and

which makes us stick to the evils we know rather than rush off to seek the ones we don't?

Fear of death makes us all cowards, and our natural boldness becomes weak with too much thinking.

Actions that should be carried out at once get misdirected, and stop being actions at all. (https://williambertrand.fr/to-be-or-not-to-be-by-william-shakespeare/)

#Hamlet, #famous #Quote, #Suffering, #Classic, #Enligsh #Literature, #Language;

Bismillah
Homeschooling Program